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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8146  
INFO RUEHXC/ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0977  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0143

UNCLAS MEXICO 003926

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR G - JUAQUIN FERRAO, DRL/MLGA - LYNN SICADE, AND  
IO/RHS - RACHEL LEATHAM

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UNGA](#) [MX](#)  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON USG PRIORITIES FOR  
PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES  
MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 98670

Poloff delivered reftel demarche July 23 to SRE Area Director for Human Rights and Democracy Luis Benavides. Benavides listened to the U.S. position urging the GOM not to support full Participant status for Russia, Nigeria, and Venezuela, and to offer "special guest" status to Taiwan. However, he showed little sign the GOM would support us on these issues. Benavides explained that Mexico favors full Russian participation because "allowing Russia's full participation is more likely to lead to the strengthening of its democratic institutions than not allowing its full participation." He said the GOM was not prepared to disclose its position on Venezuela or Nigeria, but stated that Mexico is trying to improve its relations with its Latin American neighbors and noted with regard to Venezuela concerns only about limitations on freedom of expression. He asked if the USG would take into account the abuses of religious freedom and of women in the case of Nigeria. Regarding inviting Taiwan as a special guest, Benavides said this would be "very complicated" and reiterated Mexico's support for the One China policy.

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